

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6512

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 CAIRO 9193

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EG US IS

SUBJECT: GAMASY ON GENEVA TALKS

SUMMARY: ON PRESIDENT'S INSTRUCTIONS, GAMASY SUMMONED ME TO EXPRESS CONCERN THAT THE GENEVA TALKS REMAIN LARGELY STATIC AND TO ASK FOR THE SECRETARY'S INTERCESSION. THE TWO ISSUES OF PARTICULAR CONCERN TO THE GOE ARE A) NORTH SINAI MILITARY REDEPLOYMENT AND B) AND ISRAELI ATTEMPT TO SPECIFY WEAPON AND EQUIPMENT NUMBER FOR THE EIGHT EGYPTIAN BATTALIONS PERMITTED IN THE ZONE OF LIMITED ARMAMENTS. EGYPT WILL NOT BUDGE ON THESE POINTS. OTHER DISPUTED ISSUES ARE POSITIONING OF HEAVY WEAPONS AND LATEST ISRAELI CONTENTION HAT THE STIPULATED TWO MONTH PERIOD FOR THE RETURN OF SOUTHERN SECTOR OIL FIELDS DOES NOT APPLY TO WITHDRAWAL OF ISRAELI MILITARY FORCES IN THAT AREA. END SUMMARY.

1. THIS MORNING I RECEIVED A CALL FROM GAMASY STATING THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD ASKED HIM TO SUMMON ME AND GIVE ME AN ACCOUNT OF THE CURRENT STATE OF THE GENEVA TALKS AND THE PROBLEMS THAT HAVE ARISEN. I HAVE JUST COME BACK FROM AN HOUR LONG MEETING WITH HIM. HIS CHIEF OF OPERATIONS, GENERAL GRIDLY, WAS ALSO PRESENT.

2. GAMASY STATED THAT, IN ADDITION TO DAILY TELEGRAPHIC
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REPORTS FROM THE EGYPTIAN DELEGATION IN GENEVA, HE

HAD JUST HAD A PERSONAL REPORT FROM BRIGADIER FAROUK UWAI. AS GAMASY SAW IT, THE GENEVA TALKS ARE STILL LARGELY STATIC. MINOR MATTERS ARE INDEED BEING SETTLED, BUT MAJOR MATTERS ARE NOT. SEVERAL MAJOR PROBLEMS HAVE TO BE SOLVED AT THE POLITICAL LEVEL. SPECIFICALLY,

3. REDEPLOYMENT IN NORTH SINAI: AS LATE AS TWO DAYS AGO, GAMASY SAID, THE ISRAELIS WERE STILL INSISTING THAT THERE BE NO MILITARY REDEPLOYMENT IN NORTH SINAI UNTIL THE LAST 15 OR 21 DAYS. GOE, HE EMPHASIZED, CANNOT ACCEPT THIS. ACTING ON HIS INSTRUCTIONS, EGYPTDEL HAD MADE SEVERAL PROPOSALS TO PERMIT SUCCESSIVE, SMALL PHASED MOVEMENTS FROM WEST TO EAST OR IN BUFFER ZONE. NONE OF THESE WOULD BE DETRIMENTAL TO ISRAELI SECURITY. GOE CONTINUES TO INSIST THERE MUST BE AT LEAST ONE STEP EVERY MONTH OR EVERY REASONABLE PERIOD. THE ISRAELIS APPEAR TO BE WORRIED ABOUT THE NOV 30 DATE, I.E. THE END OF UNDOF'S MANDATE, AND WHAT THIS COULD PORTEND. HENCE, THEY ARE UNWILLING TO MOVE BEFORE DEC 1. THEY APPARENTLY WISH TO OBSERVE THE EGYPTIAN REACTION IF SYRIA DOES NOT RENEW UNDOF. PRESIDENT SADAT INSISTS THAT THE UNDOF ISSUE SHOULD NOT RPT NOT BE USED AS A CAUSE TO DELAY PHASED, SUCCESSIVE REDEPLOYMENT. THE PRESIDENT HAD SPECIFICALLY SAID THAT IF THEY ARE WORRIED ABOUT THE NOV 30 DATE, HIS STRONG PUBLIC STATEMENT OF LAST NIGHT ABOUT EGYPT'S INTENTIONS SHOULD BE ENOUGH.

4. MINOR ARMAMENTS ISSUE: (A) A SECOND MAJOR PROBLEM IS THE ISRAELI INSISTENCE OF LIMITING EGYPTIAN ARMAMENTS IN THE LIMITED ZONE. THEY ARE USING THE TERM "MINRO WEAPONS" TO CONTRAST THEIR LATEST DEMANDS WITH THE SPECIFIC HEAVY ARMAMENTS LIMITATIONS ALREADY CONTAINED IN THE ANNEX. THE ISRAELIS HAVE BEGUN TO TALK ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION OF THE EIGHT PERMITTED EGYPTIAN INFANTRY BATTALIONS. THEY WISH THESE TO BE EQUIPPED WITH NO MORE THAN 50 ANTI-TANK ROCKETS, 100 APCS AND A LIMITED NUMBER OF PMP ARMORED
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CARS.

(B) GAMASY RECALLED HE HAD PREDICTED TO THE SECRETARY THAT THE ISRAELIS WOULD TRY TO DO THIS. TO ACCEPT IT WOULD MEAN THE EGYPTIAN FORCES IN THE ZONE OF LIMITED ARMAMENTS WOULD BE VIRTUALLY AFOOT. BRIGADIER FAROUK HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO STATE THAT EGYPT REORGANIZED IT FORCES AFTER THE OCTOBER 6 WAR. THE NATURE OF THAT REORGANIZATION IS SECRET AND

EGYPT IS NOT OBLIGED TO REVEAL IT TO THE ISRAELIS. WITHIN THE CONCEPT OF THE ALLOWED EIGHT BATTALIONS, THERE SHOULD BE NO SPECIFIED LIMIT ON ANTI-TANK RICKETS, APCS OR PMPS. THERE IS AN ORGANIC LIMIT TO THE NUMBER THAT ANY BATTALION SIZED UNIT CAN ABSORB. GAHASY CONCEDED THIS MIGHT BE "STUBBORN", BUT INSISTED THAT THE GOE CANNOT AGREE TO SPECIFYING THE TYPES AND THE NUMBERS OF WEAPONS ORGANIC TO ITS INFANTRY BATTALIONS. HE POINTED OUT THAT AT SOME FUTURE TIME EGYPT MAY GET OTHER TYPES OF ARMORED CARS OR EQUIPMENT WITH WHICH IT MIGHT WISH TO EQUIP ITS INFANTRY BATTALIONS. HE WAS PARTICULARLY INSISTENT THAT NOTHING OF THIS SORT BE PUT IN THE PROTOCOL, SINCE AS HE PUT IT, "IT WILL BE EMBARRASSING FOR US IN FRONT OF THE ARMED FORCES". GAMASY ASKED FOR A REASONABLE ISRAELI APPROACH TO THIS MATTER, EMPHASIZING HE IS UNDER STRICT PRESIDENTIAL INSTRUCTIONS TO HONOR THE TERMS OF THE TWO DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENTS.

5. LOCATION OF HEAVY WEAPONS: GAMASY RECALLED THE PROVISION OF PARA 5(B)(1) OF THE ANNEX THAT THE PARTIES WILL NOT POSITION HEAVY WEAPONS IN SUCH A MANNER THAT THEY CAN REACH THE OTHER LINE. HE HAD POINTED OUT TO THE SECRETARY THAT THE ISRAELIS WILL WANT THE "LUNAS" SO POSITIONED, BUT WILL NOT ACCEPT THIS LIMITATION ON THE LANCES. THE SECRETARY HAD AGREED THAT THE ISRAELIS WOULD PROBABLY TRY TO DO THIS. THE ISRAELIS ARE IN FACT NOW INSISTING UPON THIS VERY POINT. UNEF IS SUPPOSED TO INSPECT THE POSITIONING OF THESE HAVY WEAPONS. HOWEVER, UNDER THE ISRAELI PROPOSAL, UNEF WOULD EVEN HAVE THE RIGHT TO COME TO CAIRO TO CHECK
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EGYPTIAN WEAPONRY. THIS IS CLEARLY UNACCEPTABLE. GAMASY SAID HE HAS PROPOSED THAT SUCH HEAVY WEAPONRY BE PROHIBITED BETWEEN TA LINE 10 KILOMETERS WEST OF THE CANAL AND 10 KILOMETERS EAST OF LINE K. THIS WOULD MEAN A DISTANCE OF 75 KILOMETERS, WHICH OUGHT TO REASSURE THE ISRAELIS.

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6513

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6. SOUTHERN SINAI: (A) THE ISRAELIS HAD SUGGESTED A WITHDRAWAL SCHEDULE IN THIS AREA WHICH, FROM THE EGYPIAN POINT OF VIEW, IS BAD. THEY DO NOT WANT TO HAND OVER THIS EGYPTIAN AREA UNTIL DECEMBER 1. AGAIN THE NOVEMBER 30 UNDOF DATE IS THE STUMBLING BLOCK. HE HAD RECEIVED A MESSAGE YESTERDAY FROM THE EGYPTIAN DELEGATION IN GENEVA REPORTING THAT BRIGADIER SHAFIR NOW CLAIMS TO HAVE A REPRIMAND FROM RABIN FOR HAVING APPROVED THE HANDLING OVER OF THE SOUTHERN SECTOR IN TWO MONTHS ON THE BASIS OF THE PROVISIO IN THE AGREEMENT THAT THE OIL FIELDS ARE TO BE HANDED OVER IN THAT PERIOD. NOTHING HAD BEEN IN THE AGREEMENT, RABIN REPORTEDLY INSISTED, ABOUT EVACUATING ISRAELI ARMED FORCES FROM SOUTHERN SINAI IN TWO MONTHS. AS A RESULT, SHAFIR HAD ASKED FOR RECONSIDERATION OF WHAT HE HAD EARLIER AGREED UPON. SPECIFICALLY, HE NOW WANTS THE RIGHT FOR THE ISRAELI MILITARY TO USE THE ROADS IN THE EGYPTIAN SECOTR FOR ANOTHER TWO OR FOUR WEEKS AFTER THE OIL FIELDS HAVE BEEN TURNED OVER. GAMASY RECALLED WITH WRY AMUSEMENT THAT YAARIV HAD DONE A SIMILAR THING DURING THE KILOMETER 101 TALKS. GAMASY INSISTED THIS IS NOT ACCEPTABLE SINCE THE EGYPTIANS CANNOT WORK IN THOSE AREAS WITH THE ISRAELI MILITARY STILL PRESENT.

(B) BRIGADIER FAROUK HAS BEEN SENT BACK WITH A PROPOSAL THAT THE SOUTHERN SECTOR EVACUATION AND
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TURNOVER BE HANDLED IN TWO PHASES: PHASE ONE --
THE NORTHERN SECTOR BETWEEN RAS AL-SIDR AND HAMMAN
FAROUN TO BE COMPLETED IN ONE MONTH. THIS

IS THE AREA MOBIL PEOPLE WOULD FIRST GO IN. PHASE TWO -- THE BELAYIM SECTOR, WHICH COULD BE AT THE END OF TWO MONTHS.

(C) THE ISRAELIS HAVE PROPOSED, GAMASY STATED, THAT AMERICAN TECHNICIANS FROM MOBIL COME INTO RAS AL-SIDR ON OCT 5 TO START TAKING OVER THE FIELDS. ON NOV 5 THE FIRST EGYPTIAN TANKER SHOULD BEGIN OFFTAKE. GENERAL GRIDLY INTERJECTED HIS SUSPICION THAT THE ISRAELIS WANT TO CONTINUE TO LIFT RAS AL-SIDR OIL DURING THIS MONTH. BRIGADIER FAROUK HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO PROPOSE THAT THE MOBIL TAKEOVER OF RAS AL-SIDR BE ON OCT 15, AND THAT IT BE COMPLETED IN ONE WEEK'S TIME. GAMASY ACKNOWLEDGED, HOWEVER, THAT THE MILITARY FACTOR WILL BE DETERMINING.

7. GAMASY NOTED THAT TIME IS RUNNING OUT IN GENEVA. THERE IS ONLY ONE MORE WEEK TO GO. SINCE TWO DAYS WILL BE NEEDED FOR THE LEGAL PEOPLE TO GET THE DOCUMENT IN ORDER, THIS MEANS ONLY FIVE DAYS. IT IS TIME TO DO SOMETHING TO GALVANIZE THE TALKS. THE PRESIDENT BELIEVES THAT TIME HAS COME FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER TO INTERCEDE AND EXPECIALLY ON POINTS MENTIONED PARAS 3 AND 4 ABOVE. ANY HELP WE CAN GIVE ON THE OTHER POINTS WILL ALSO BE APPRECIATED, BUT GAMASY ACKNOWLEDGED THEY SHOULD BE NEGOTIABLE WITH GOODWILL.

8. GAMASY ADDED THAT AT LAST NIGHT'S MEETING, AT WHICH THE PRESIDENT HAD DECIDED TO MAKE THE ABOVE APPROACH TO US, HAD ALSO BEEN ATTENDED BY FONMIN FAHMY, VP MOBAREK AND PRIMIN SALEM. WHEN I RETURENED TO THE EMBASSY I FOUND A MESSAGE TO CALL FAHMY. HE HAS ASKED ME TO COME BY AT 1400 LOCAL TODAY, BUT WANTED THE ABOVE MESSAGE TO BE SENT WITHOUT DELAY. HE ASKS THAT I ADVISE THAT HIS TALK WITH ME WILL BE A POLITICAL FOLLOW UP TO GAMASY'S DEMARCH.

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9. SUGGEST DEPT PASS THIS MESSGE TO HAL SAUNDERS IN GENEVA AND TO TEL AVIV.
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